



2004 Legislative Priorities

Prohibition of Pampas Grass
Lead Department: Park and Recreation

Background:

- What governmental functions are at issue?
 - Removal of invasive exotic plants as required by the City's MSCP.
- Why is legislation required?
 - Pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana*; *C. jubata*) is an extremely invasive exotic plant that was introduced to San Diego many years ago as an ornamental landscape plant. It has invaded open space in San Diego to the point that it has replaced native vegetation and continues to invade new areas of open space. The City of San Diego is spending \$10,000-\$25,000 an acre to remove invasive exotics depending on accessibility of the site and amount of re-treatment required. With the adoption of the Multiple Species Conservation Program, removal of invasive exotics and restoration of native habitat is a requirement of the program.
- How would the proposal permit the City to perform more effectively?
 - The ban of sale, importation, and cultivation of pampas grass in San Diego County would stop new populations of this exotic from becoming established that would invade adjacent open space areas. This proactive approach would protect open space areas not already infested with this plant and allow the City to focus on eradicating existing populations.

Proposal

Add Pampas Grass to the State Noxious Weed List with the a rating appropriate to allow the County of San Diego Agriculture Commissioner to ban the sale, importation, and cultivation of Pampas Grass in San Diego County

- Specify what sections of state law require amendment
 - Option #1 (preferred): Seek a regulatory change in the State's Noxious Weed List to include Pampas Grass in the "B" list of noxious weeds, thereby allowing the County to ban the sale, importation and cultivation of the invasive grass.
 - Option #2 (not preferred): Seek special legislation identifying and proclaiming Pampas Grass as a "B" rated noxious weed. To date, there

have been no legislative actions amending the noxious weed list; all amendments have been established through regulatory action. GRD recommends the City should exhaust its resources working within the regulatory structure before seeking special legislation.

- Provide specific amendment language you seek
Amend Section 4500 of title 3, division 4, chapter 6, subchapter 6 of the California Code of Regulations to include *Cortaderia selloana*; *C. jubata* as a noxious weed.

Strategy

- List likely supporters: California Native Plant Society, Sierra Club, Audubon Society, California Exotic Pest Plant Council
- List likely opponents: Nurseryman's Association